

CHRISTMAS RUSH BREAKS RECORD

Streets Thronged Night
and Day With Busy
Shoppers.

FLOOD OF PARCELS IN POST-OFFICE

Extra Forces Working There and
in Express Offices—Large
Increases in Volume of
Business—Holiday
of School Chil-
dren Begins.

THOUSANDS of gay-hearted people throng the streets nightly in the vast preparation that is going on for the greatest holiday of the year. Shopping is the order of the day, and all the stores are expecting such a rush as they never had before, except at the Christmas time, and money changes hands with a rapidity that soon empties the heaviest laden purse. Marketing is going on apace, and the stalls are quickly covered with their loads of fruits, vegetables and meats every day, for it takes some time to arrange for the table that is to be laid five days hence—such a table as is laid only once a year. The dealers rub their fat sides in jovial glow, for it is a prosperous time with them, and heretofore many people have been stinting themselves because of the rise in the price of everything that's good to eat.

All things are taking on the brightness and brilliancy of Christmas, just as if there had never been a Christmas before. Stores are gayly decked in bolly and other evergreens, and through the green leaves the electric lights dance and listen, to that everything in the show windows looks like some dream of a fairyland before. Human tides surge on and on, entering first this store, then that, as if they could not buy anything they want in any store they saw. Even the ragged newsboy is taking on the gay, and his shrill plea to be remembered at Yuletide is heard on every corner. The pots of the Salvation Army may be seen on prominent corners, though, as yet, they are strangely empty, even crying for more pennies to be thrown into their hungry bowls. "The hungry sheep," they say, "look up and are not fed." Now and then some sweet-faced woman steps close by, and the jingle of a coin is heard in accompaniment to the beating of the tambourine.

Busy Scenes.
Of all the busy scenes seen now everywhere in Richmond, there is none more busy than the post-office. Letters by the thousands, where once there were only hundreds, pass daily through the letter-boxes and on toward their destination. Money orders, bills, and all the rest of the parcels insatiable betoken that thousands of Richmond people bear a kindly memory of their distant friends.

The days now before Christmas are numbered few indeed, and the rush grows with the lapse of time. People must hasten, lest Christmas catch them unawares. All too soon the day will be upon them, and, if they hasten not, some one to be remembered may be forgotten in the hurry and bustle.

The school children to-day begin the holidays, and this afternoon and to-morrow, and every day until the end of Christmas Eve, they will storm the letter-boxes and the stores to spend their dimes and nickels in the air of prizes of the realm. It is to them that the best and the gayest time will come, for the child's happiest dream is of the stocking hanging before the fire.

SANTA CLAUS IS KIND THIS YEAR

Volume of Presents Going In and
Out Larger Than Ever
Before.

If the great rush of business through the post-office and express-office here can be taken as an index, one can see that the Christmas season is a pretty safe one. Richmond people are giving and receiving more Christmas presents than ever before.

Nor does this seem at all unreasonable, for times are flush, and almost every one who desires to do so may have work and make money with which to gladden the hearts of their friends and of the poor. At the post-office the high tide has not been reached. Since the first of the year, the heaviest days, but within the past week there has been an enormous increase in the movement of packages, and this applies to both those incoming and outgoing.

The government, however, makes ample provision for such emergencies, and there are now on duty eleven additional carriers and five additional clerks. The business of the office for the most part is pretty well up, but in order to preserve this situation, it is necessary for all the attaches to keep almost constantly on the go.

The outgoing business of the post-office is being greatly facilitated by the fact that substitutions for the sale of stamps have been from time to time established in nearly every section of the city, and for the further reason that many of the business houses and practically all the drug stores are prepared to handle packages and sell stamps.

Substation Work.
There are fifteen substations in the city, including the two branch post-offices, St. Louis and B. and the work of these and various stores brings to the central office a large proportion of the packages sent out already properly weighed and stamped.

In addition to all this there are practically three stamp agents at work in the main office. The regular window is for the sale of stamps and the weighing of first-class mail.

Another recently opened is for the weighing of packages, and the sale of stamps for them, and in addition to this persons desiring stamps in lots of 100 and 500 may, if they choose, purchase them from the assistant postmaster. With this

OLD SOLDIER IS FOUND STARVING

He and Mindless Wife Dis-
covered Living in
Room in Cellar.

SIGHT WAS LOST AT MALVERN HILL

Fought for Confederate Cause
and Was Wounded Five Times.
Wife Has a Cancerous
Growth and Veteran
Is Stone-
Blind.

Stone-blind, gray-haired, with hardly a rag to his back, with a wife, who, crazed with cancer, sleeps not, with a pension from the government, and the city which it would shame one almost to mention, which his needs are considered, an old Confederate soldier, who bears in his body the maiming memory of five wounds received in the Civil War, and who, on the field of Malvern Hill, gave his sight to the Lost Cause, how to-day in a dank basement room, unvisited, unremembered and unknown. But for Captain Fowler, of the Salvation Army, the veteran, who has passed the allotted time of three-score years and ten, would have to-night no fire to warm his meagre bones, no cheer to give his dying wife, and hardly a crust of bread to sustain the life he once offered to his country. He was seen last night lying dead to his wife in the basement room at No. 23 North Eighteenth Street, and, in the dim light which came from the rapidly sinking oil lamp on the table, roomed a story that for tragic sadness has rarely been equaled.

Pitiful Condition.
He was asleep in his clothes, and by his side lay his wife, sixty-eight years of age, garbed in some long-sleeved gown, a counterpane and a sheet and a few old coats thrown over both to keep them warm. A sickening odor permeated the room. Moulded walls surrounded them. On their spiders crawled their webs, as they had woven them these many years gone. A crippled stove attached itself to the chimney by means of what might have passed for a stovepipe, but it contained no fire.

It was cheaper to sleep in bed with one's clothes on than to pay five cents for two blocks of wood. The floor was mouldered and dusty. A few pots and pans waited on the mantle, and on the opposite wall one could make out in the faint light a few old photographs. In the seat of the room was a sofa, adorned with a few rags and a dirty pillow. What mattered it? The man could not see, and the mindless wife did not care.

Half asleep, when the reporter entered with Captain Fowler, sat an aged woman, relic of some other, happier days, a guardian whom Captain Fowler had appointed to look after the old couple in his absence. She wore a start when they entered, and in a feeble voice, inquired their business. The old man raised himself on his elbow, and clapping Captain Fowler's hand, kissed it, saying, "God bless you, God bless you." The wife stared and groaned in her pain, and then, half-rising, disclosed the left side of her face covered with a cancerous growth.

Her eyes were wide-staring and her face drawn and pinched with hunger. It was such a sickening, pitiful sight that the two visitors had to turn their heads. She groaned, and said, "Oh, my face, my face; it hurts me so." The old man patted her reassuringly. "There, there, dear," he said, "don't cry, please don't cry." Her face lay with a start when they entered, and in a feeble voice, inquired their business. The old man raised himself on his elbow, and clapping Captain Fowler's hand, kissed it, saying, "God bless you, God bless you." The wife stared and groaned in her pain, and then, half-rising, disclosed the left side of her face covered with a cancerous growth.

Fought for South.
The old man's name is Charles Morgan. He is seventy-eight years old, and he has been in his present abode for seven months. His pension as a Confederate soldier is \$30 a year, and every ten days he receives an allowance of \$1 from charity. Through the whole of the Civil War he fought as a son of the South, though he was born in Cardiff, Wales. He bears the scars of five wounds, and said pitifully, "Yes, I lost my sight on the battlefield of Malvern Hill. He has been stone-blind eleven years. His mind wandered so, that it was only in patches that his tragic story could be gleaned from his faltering lips.

"I was a member," he said, "of the Alabama Artillery, and I fought in Pickett's Division. I was once a member of Trinity Methodist Church, and I was one of the four who organized the Trinity Mission Praying Band." This band was a sort of mission organization, and went about doing good much like the Salvation Army in its religious services.

Yet the old couple have had few visits now from any one, save from members of the Salvation Army, for seven months.

(Continued on Second Page.)

HAULED SUFFERING BOY FROM MANHOLE

Rope Used to Pull Harry Poore,
Badly Injured, to the
Street.

Harry Poore, of No. 115 Beverly Street, was last night the victim of a rather unusual accident. Walking by the Annex to Murphy's Hotel he chanced to step into the manhole of a sewer, and down he went to the bottom. His right leg was broken in the fall, and he was badly hurt otherwise.

Mr. J. Harrison Tabb, of No. 106 West Marshall Street, happened to hear the boy's cries, and hastened to his assistance. Some one went below and tied a rope around the boy's waist, and he was drawn to the top. Kindly hands bore him into the hotel Annex, where he awaited the arrival of the ambulance wagon. Dr. Jones responded, and finding that the boy was broken, took the boy to his home. It is said that the manhole was open and that no light was exhibited to warn passers-by.

WILLIAM F. BYWATERS AND CULPEPER BUILDINGS FIGURING IN STROTHERS' TRIAL



MRS. BYWATERS OUT OF DANGER

Culpeper Quiets Down After
Period of Intense Excitement
on Account of Tragedy.

WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY

Leon Declares He Didn't Per-
form Operation—Dr.
Walters's Statement.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CULPEPER, Va., December 20.—Culpeper spent yesterday the quietest day since the Bywaters tragedy last Saturday. The verdict of the coroner's jury and the act of sending the Strothers boys on to the Grand Jury closes the case for the present, except for the condition of young Mrs. Bywaters. She is considered better to-day, and is reported now out of danger.

What Doctors Say.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20.—"I know nothing of this matter except what has been published in the newspapers. I never saw or heard of the Bywaters or Tysons until their names appeared in print. There is some mistake in the account of the case. The victim in these words Dr. Leon, or Thompson, of 47 Missouri Avenue North-west, denied the statements made by Mrs. Bywaters, who says he is the man who performed an operation on her. Dr. Leon refuses to discuss the case. He emphatically disclaims any connection with it, and insists that the use of his name by the woman is an error.

At police headquarters to-night Inspector Boardman said Dr. Leon is enjoying liberty on \$2,000 bond, furnished for his appearance in court in connection with another criminal operation case. The victim was a servant girl, who was taken to a hospital about a year and a half ago. "These Mrs. Bywaters would come to Washington and personally prosecute Dr. Leon and Dr. Walters, who, she alleges, performed an illegal operation on her. There is nothing that the police department can do in the case," said Inspector Boardman.

Dr. Walters's Statement.

Dr. L. E. Walters, the other doctor, who, according to Mrs. Bywaters's testimony at the coroner's inquest yesterday, attended her at the Montross Hotel, in Washington, when she came here to submit to a criminal operation, said to-day that he had been called to the hotel merely to treat Mrs. Bywaters professionally, after the operation had been performed. She was in a serious condition, he said, Bywaters and the girl admitted their identity, and when he suggested that they marry, they declared that it was their intention to do so.

According to Dr. Walters, Bywaters and Miss Strother were most devoted. Bywaters, he said, was apparently much attached to his mother and made frequent trips to Culpeper to see her while Miss Strother was ill here at the hotel. Miss Strother told him, said Dr. Walters, that Bywaters was the only man she had ever loved, and Bywaters made professions of great affection for the girl. Dr. Walters's opinion Bywaters was anxious to postpone the marriage because he was short financially. Bywaters told him, he said, that he had been defeated for the office of treasurer of Culpeper county, but he expected to be elected the next time, and would then be on his feet financially. Miss Strother told him, he said, that she expected to get some money from her father's estate. Dr. Walters said, also, that he had never received a cent for his services to Miss Strother.

HERBERT SCORES ROOT'S SPEECH

At Alabama Society Dinner Tells
the Proper Functions of a
State.

THE TEACHINGS OF JEFFERSON

Applauds President for Dismiss-
ing Negro Troops and Says All
Good People Are With Him.

NEW YORK, December 20.—Hilary A. Herbert, former Secretary of the Navy, was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Alabama Society, held at the Hotel Astor to-night. Colonel Francis G. Caffey, president of the society, presided. In his speech, Mr. Herbert referred to the recent speech of Secretary of State Elihu Root in this city, in advocacy of increased power for the Federal government.

"The State of Alabama," said Mr. Herbert, "was built in that memorable era, 1801-1825. As to what were the proper functions of a State, and as to the true meaning of the Federal Constitution, the leading Alabamians were thoroughly imbued with the ideas of the philosopher-statesman, Thomas Jefferson.

"In Federal politics that was the day of States' rights—the Federal Constitution was to be strictly construed. Halfheartedly, in fact, the Federal Government was to be strictly construed. Halfheartedly, in fact, the Federal Government was to be strictly construed. Halfheartedly, in fact, the Federal Government was to be strictly construed.

Mr. Herbert touched upon the race issue in the South, and pointed out as a remedy for friction between whites and blacks in the South the action of Governor J. B. Owens, in exhorting the negroes to strive to keep down crime among the bad ones. Continuing, Mr. Herbert defended the action of President Roosevelt in dismissing three companies of negroes on charges of rioting at Brownsville, and added:

"What the President did, U. S. Grant and Robert E. Lee did, and I am sure that although there may be a few sentimentalists who can never forget the color line, and will therefore still criticize, and make who followed Grant during the Civil War, and their descendants, will rally around Mr. Roosevelt and uphold what he has done."

SLAM AT THE SOUTH BY WESTERN OFFICIALS

CHICAGO, December 20.—Commissioners Harlan and Lane, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, to-day continued the car shortage investigation which began in Minneapolis.

W. B. Riddle, vice-president of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, declared that conditions in the South at the present time were worse than those in the North. This was caused, he said, by the inadequate terminal facilities in the South. At Galveston, he said, traffic on all of the roads is congested throughout the year.

CHAMBER TAKES UP ABATTOIR MATTER

Director of Department of Public
Health of Philadelphia De-
livers Address Here.

BOTH SIDES ARE PLEASSED

Opponents and Advocates Both
Gather Comfort From State-
ments of Visitor.

An audience of perhaps 150 persons last night heard Dr. William M. L. Coplin, director of the Department of Public Health of Philadelphia, make an address upon municipal health precautions in general and the possibility of constructing and maintaining unobjectionable abattoirs within the corporate limits of a city. The speaker had been quoted in circulars and in the public press by the opponents of the proposed Forbes abattoir, and naturally the majority of the audience were persons in sympathy with the opposition.

In the opinion of members of the Ordinance Committee and of the Board of Health, who have approved the location of Mr. Forbes for permission to construct and operate the abattoir, the statement of Dr. Coplin was eminently fair, and fully corroborated that of Dr. E. C. Levy, who recently made a careful examination as to the conduct of abattoirs.

Express Satisfaction.
On the other hand, the opponents of abattoirs expressed satisfaction with the address of Dr. Coplin and his answers to questions propounded by advocates and opponents alike, and felt that their cause had been strengthened, as they demonstrated by applauding some of his statements on the subject of abattoirs in general. Among the leading questioners from the point of view of the opposition to the abattoir were Mr. N. W. Brown, Major Otway S. Allen, Mr. C. B. Cooke, Mr. L. McK. Jenkins, and others, and Mr. Wyndham R. Meredith, counsel for certain opponents of the proposed location for the Forbes abattoir.

On the other side, were Alderman W. T. Dabney, Dr. W. T. Oppenheimer, Dr. E. C. Levy, and others. Still others asked questions which did not disclose their position on the subject, if, indeed, they had made up their minds on the question of public policy involved.

Thus, strange as it may seem, both sides, and even those not aligned with either side, appeared satisfied with the results of the hearing. Only a few of the questioners manifested any feeling in the matter, the majority appearing to desire light and information upon the question before forming a conviction. The attitudes of many were known from their expressions before the Council Committee on Ordinances, which recently approved the Forbes application, and which, it now seems most probable, will recommend an ordinance to the Council to-night granting the permission under rigid restrictions and safeguards.

Dr. Coplin, a calm speaker, who makes no pretensions to oratory. Indeed, his address was in the nature of a business talk in almost a conversational tone, and was delivered at times somewhat in the manner of a judicial opinion. The speaker began his address with a general discussion of the subject of health measures and sanitary precautions, with a gradual approach to the specific theme upon which he was expected to give the benefit of his professional knowledge, experience and opinion. He declared that light was a powerful agent and safeguard.

SERIOUS DEFECTS IN MANAGEMENT OF CITY PRISON

\$130,000,000
RAILWAY SALE

New York, New Haven and Hart-
ford Purchases 1,350 Miles of
Trolley Line Track.

\$16,000,000 A YEAR EARNINGS

One of the Largest Financial
Transactions Ever Made in
New England.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., December 20.—Announcement was made to-day of the purchase of the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company, together with the railway system owned by the Rhode Island Securities Company, the holding company of the Rhode Island Company, which itself was owner of the Rhode Island Suburban Railway Company, the Union Railway Company, and the Pawtucket Street Railway Company. This is one of the largest transactions ever made in New England. It gives the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company ownership of about 1,350 miles of trolley and streetcar lines, from which the single trackage trolley lines in Connecticut earnings a year are upward of \$16,000,000.

At the market value of the companies in the whole combination, including all the underlying bonds in the constituent companies, it is not less than \$130,000,000. The purchase of the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company, it is stated, calls for \$25,000,000 as first payment, increasing \$20,000,000 a year until it reaches the amount of \$1,500,000.

The total outstanding stock of the railway and lighting company, of which it is understood, the United Gas Improvement Company has a considerable majority, was \$25,000,000 preferred stock, common, a total of \$130,000,000, of which none has ever been returned to the Connecticut Railroad Commission as paid up cash.

The Rhode Island purchase will be voted in by the Rhode Island Securities Company, a Connecticut holding company, to take over the Rhode Island Securities Company it will issue its own four per cent, fifty-year debentures to the amount of \$30,000,000 to be guaranteed, principal and interest, by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, as holders of the stock. The Rhode Island Securities Company will pay to the Providence Securities Company (\$1,200,000) an assessment on each share, which, it is stated, will be guaranteed against any deficit in the fixed charges on the Rhode Island system.

PERSHING CHARGES ARE NOT CREDITED

Manila Newspapers Say That
Objections to Confirmation
Are on Way.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—The Washington Times of to-day said a sensation has been caused in army and social circles by the publication of the startling charges made against Brigadier-General John J. Pershing in the Manila American, copies of which have just been received in this city in the last mail from Manila. According to this publication high army officers stationed in the Philippines have written to leading members of the Senate, asking that confirmation of the President's nomination to promote General Pershing from captain to brigadier-general be deferred till formal charges, which they have made, reach Washington.

The present effort to prevent the general's confirmation has failed, inasmuch as the Senate took favorable action on the case December 10th.

According to reports from Manila, a number of officers there stand ready to make affidavits that Pershing, when he was stationed in the islands in 1898 and 1899, openly lived with an army woman who attended an army canteen, and that two children were born to them. Pershing was military attaché at Tokio when he was married to the charming daughter of Senator Warren, of Wyoming, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, which favorably reported his nomination for confirmation.

War Department officials are not inclined to give credence to the reports from Manila, and will take no action unless some officer formally prefer charges against General Pershing.

Inquiry at Senator Warren's office to-day in regard to the accusations made against General Pershing developed the fact that an informal investigation of the charges was conducted a short time ago, and that the army officer was exonerated.

STOLID RUSSIAN KILLED MANY WIVES

Says "It's Nobody's Business But
My Own"—Reward for His
Return to Russia.

BUTLER, PA., December 20.—Max Kaffie, a Russian, killed his wife to-night by striking her on the head with an iron, and also injured a young daughter and a boarder. The arrival of a squad of police saved Kaffie from violence at the hands of a crowd which had surrounded his home. When asked by the police why he had killed his wife, Kaffie said:

"I have a right to kill my wife; it's nobody's business but my own."

Fellow-countrymen, who knew Kaffie in Russia, informed the police that he is wanted for murder there, asserting that he killed several wives, and that there is a standing reward for his arrest and return to Russia.

Subcommittee Makes
Report Showing Need
of Jail Reforms.

DANGER FROM FIRE AND PESTILENCE

Sanitary Conditions Bad, Not-
withstanding Recent Con-
struction of Building.

Lack of Light and
Warmth Com-
mented On.

A subcommittee of the Council Committee on Grounds and Buildings, recently constituted to inspect the City Jail, has made a report to the full committee, containing some rather interesting, not to say surprising, disclosures as to conditions at the prison. The subcommittee consisted of Messrs. W. T. Atkinson and T. Francis Green.

The most serious complaints of the conduct of the institution were as to the lack of light and warmth, the use of the substitution of candles for gas, and the use of newspapers to keep out the cold and make the cells more habitable, and the danger to inmates by reason of fires resulting from the proximity of inflammable material and exposed lights.

Perhaps even more startling is the liability to a holocaust, when it is considered that with 225 prisoners, all locked in by an automatic locking device, which, after being sprung is secured by a padlock, only one man on duty at night and one in the daytime understood the locking and unlocking process. In the event of the absence of this one man, the prisoners would be like rats in a trap thrown into a fire.

Situation Bad.

The committee further state that they found the sanitary condition of the jail bad, although it is a new jail, and that the plumbing in some cases was such as to prove inefficient and liable to promote unhealthful and dangerous conditions.

Yesterday afternoon, when the full committee met, a communication was received from the jail physician, urging proper ventilation, more light and heat and better bathing facilities; the provision of four rooms for the harmless insane, the preparation of two padded cells for dangerous lunatics, the padding to be rubber covered, and the cells be cleaned. The committee had \$25 left in the credit of the jail account and ordered \$50 expended for the cells for lunatics and \$250 to make certain interior repairs and alterations deemed requisite to put the jail in proper and safe condition. Further action in the matter of resuming the sergeant to keep the jail well lighted and warmed is left to the Corporation Court, which has authority in the premises.

Text of Report.

The following is the report of the subcommittee made after an inspection of the jail:

Richmond, Va., Dec. 4, 1906.
To the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, City Hall, City:
Gentlemen: Your subcommittee, appointed by you to inspect the City Jail, beg leave to report as follows:

We went on a tour of inspection, carefully from top to bottom, and found the building well swept and fairly clean, but with a number of defects in the buildings and in its management that should be speedily corrected.

We found, first, the new stack recently erected, which, as far as could be judged, seemed to be well done and worked properly, the building being clean and free from vermin. On the bottom floor, in the northwest corner of the building, opposite Jail Alley, there is a small room, the location of which we noticed that a small amount of water had percolated through the ceiling, and that the ceiling was in a state of decay. This defect could be remedied by opening an area on Jail Alley, thereby preventing the escape of air coming through the jail wall proper.

It was so dark on the bottom floor of the building that it was absolutely impossible to move about without a candle in the afternoon without the aid of a torch, and if we had not had this light, we could not have moved. We have gotten lost, as it was necessary for us to hold on to the jailer in charge to avoid falling into the pit, and on this point we would recommend that both in the basement and throughout the building, the sufficiency of gas be used to properly light the building, as parts of the jail are absolutely in utter darkness. On all the other floors there is a small amount of light, owing to the fact that the jailer in charge told us that if they used gas, the money would be paid by the City Sergeant, and in the month of October had consumed the large amount of \$17 for gas.

Danger From Fire.

We found the prisoners in the building at the time and a number of these used tallow candles with their ends in the wall, and the danger of fire was great, and it would not be necessary to shut a sufficiency of gas be used.

We found that a great many of the prisoners were allowed to move inside the grating of their wall newspapers to keep off the cold air, and close to these newspapers were placed these candles, which might easily catch fire, and the paper or the bed clothing, causing both loss of life and damage to the property. We would advise that both heat and light sufficient be given the prisoners, so as to avoid the necessity of either the use of candles or protection from cold other than the bed clothing furnished by the jail.

We would advise that the fence on the southern wall of the building within the jail yard and opposite the horse trough be removed and the